



STATINTL

CIA disputes Laird on Soviet Missiles

WASHINGTON — Defense Secretary Melvin Laird's claim last month that the Soviet Union was developing a new extensive intercontinental ballistic missile system is disputed by the Central Intelligence Agency, Senate Republican sources reported Tuesday.

The sources stated that the CIA had concluded that most, if not all, of the new silo holes recently detected in the Soviet Union were intended for small defensive missiles.

This new construction "would not contribute to a first-strike capability and, if anything, would be an indication that a first strike was not a critical Soviet policy objective," said Dr. Herbert Scoville, a former official of the CIA and the Disarmament and Arms Control Agency. Scoville is now chairman of the strategic weapons committee of the Federation of American Scientists.

In testimony before the Senate Appropriations Committee Scoville, now chairman of the strategic weapons committee of the Federation of American Scientists, asked, "How many times are we going to allow the 'weaponers' to come before Congress and the people shouting 'missile gap,' when in reality they are only creating another 'credibility gap?'"